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Extremities Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

In the house of Marjorie, Terry, and Patricia. The play is set here with Marjorie walking around the house appearing to do her daily business and getting her day started. The play stays in this central location throughout the play with the characters moving in and out of two main areas. In this play, the intrusion only changes the mood and attitude of the characters, not the location of the play.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

There are two different intrusion. Raul entering into the house. He is a stranger. He then becomes an unwanted guest that won’t leave. Then, Raul becomes aggressive and tries to rape Marjorie. The second intrusion comes with Marjorie’s roommates coming home. Marjorie, even Raul, knew what time the women would be coming home, but with all that was going on time definitely slipped away. I don’t believe Marjorie had gotten together in her mind what she would do with Raul yet, but with her roommates coming home she had to coming with an idea, QUICKLY.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

The wasp that stung Marjorie in the beginning of the play. It symbolizes Raul. They both are unwanted. They both have committed harmful actions toward Marjorie. Neither has left evidence behind to show for its actions. Lastly, there both persevere and don’t go away without a fight.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Raul succeed in raping Marjorie?

Will Marjorie kill Raul?

What will Terry and Patricia convince Marjorie to do?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

-Things known to everyone: there is a man tied up in the fireplace and Marjorie is responsible for putting him there.

-Things known to one character: Terry was raped. When she begins to tell the story, everyone is caught off guard and kind of taken aback at the revelation.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

When Raul finally admits his true intentions and the reason for him being at the home. It is what everyone has been waiting, but it still is shocking how bold and explicit he was with his explanation. Also, the fact that there was no remorse in voice or empathy for the women he attacked. It is the first time that Terry and Patricia actual hear the truth and I believe it shocks them because they begin to believe the façade that Raul has created painting himself as innocent.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Rape

Revenge

Anger

Sympathy

Truth

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Marjorie wants Raul to pay for what he was trying to do and tell the truth. Raul is of course a factor. He is not new to this game and he is very intentional with his actions being sure not to leave marks so he can make up any story that he chooses. Her roommates also become an obstacle once they get home. They will not allow her to kill him and they continue to talk to him and allow him to get into their heads

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

The dictionary defines extremity as a condition of extreme adversity or difficulty. I believe that is a perfect title for this work. Marjorie is placed in an very difficult predicament initially. The title, however, does not give an further clues or details of how the story will play out. The play was not filled solely with adversity and challenges, but with strength, determination, and what I believe will turn out to be justice

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

The only family that is in the play would be Raul, his wife, and his unborn child. It is evident, both through his statement that the rapist wouldn’t want her and his actions of raping women all around the community, that he does not have much regard for women, not even his wife. I would not describe that as a happy home, but rather a broken home. The three roommates, Marjorie, Terry, and Patricia, also seem to have a broken home even though the coexist amongst each other. You can see this with the insults thrown at toward each other throughout the whole ordeal and even with how easily it is for Raul, a complete stranger, to sway their feelings against one another. However, the difference with the three roommates, the women know they are in this together and if one goes down they will all go down. They understand they must all come to an agreeable decision before it is all said and done.